

In Possible Compromise, Moscow Is Said to Invite Lithuanian

By **BILL KELLER**

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 11 — Prime Minister Nikolai I. Ryzhkov has invited the Prime Minister of Lithuania to Moscow for talks this week, Lithuanian officials said today, giving rise to speculation in Lithuania that the Kremlin was preparing to end its partial economic blockade of the republic.

Aides to Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene of Lithuania said Mr. Ryzhkov proposed last Friday that there be a meeting, after the Lithuanian Government agreed at the end of May to suspend all laws and actions taken since the republic declared itself independent on March 11.

"According to what Prunskiene said, Ryzhkov said this was more or less the basis on which we can start to talk," said Algimantas Cekuolis, a spokesman for the Lithuanian Government.

Moscow officials gave no concrete indication that its 54-day partial embargo of Lithuania would be ended and that deliveries of oil and other products would be resumed. But there is mounting evidence that the embargo has hurt President Mikhail S. Gorbachev more than it is hurting Lithuania.

While the Soviet leader has reaped embarrassment at home and abroad,

Lithuanians appear to be riding out the blockade with the help of a flourishing cross-border black market and a deep reservoir of good humor.

Mrs. Prunskiene and Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the breakaway Lithuanian Communist party and now a Deputy Prime Minister, were expected to see Mr. Ryzhkov and possibly President Gorbachev on Tuesday, after a meeting tonight was pre-empted by a Kremlin gathering of leaders.

Moscow Coming to Terms

The invitation is the most significant of several recent indications that Moscow is interested in coming to terms with the renegade Baltic republics, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which were forcibly taken over early in World War II and have been moving at varying paces toward independence.

Last week, Lithuania's Economics Minister, Vytautas Navickas, met with the chairman of the Soviet State Planning Agency, Yuri D. Maslyukov, to discuss the terms of future grain trade.

The Soviet Interior Minister has opened talks with officials in Estonia over that republic's demand to sever central controls over police agencies.

Mr. Gorbachev is also expected to see all three Baltic presidents on Tues-

day at a meeting of his Federation Council, a committee comprising leaders of all 15 Soviet republics.

President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania has refused to attend previous meetings of the council on the ground that Lithuania is no longer a Soviet republic. But Mr. Cekuolis said he would attend Tuesday as a gesture of conciliation.

New Soviet Federation

The council is scheduled to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's long-promised concept of a new Soviet federation in which each republic would have greater economic and political freedom.

The top Soviet leaders have had no direct contact with Lithuania since Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Ryzhkov met with Mrs. Prunskiene nearly a month ago and called on the republic to suspend its declaration of independence as a condition for further discussions.

Lithuania refused to tamper with the independence act itself, but insisted that it had effectively met Mr. Gorbachev's demand by agreeing to freeze all actions taken since during the course of negotiations. These include laws exempting Lithuanian men from

Soviet conscription, expropriation of property claimed by the Soviet Government and a requirement that Lithuanian citizens drop Soviet citizenship.

Lithuania remains closed to foreign journalists by Moscow's order, but residents reached by telephone and interviewed in Moscow describe a republic where ingenuity and free trade have largely defeated Moscow's sanctions.

Although oil deliveries have been shut off since April 18, pirate gas dealers from the neighboring Soviet republics of Byelorussia, Russia and the Ukraine have supplied a flourishing black market, bribing Moscow's border police with vodka or cuts of beef.

Mr. Gorbachev, meanwhile, has found Lithuania an embarrassment abroad and at home.

Boris N. Yeltsin, the new president of the resource-rich Russian federation, has deplored the embargo and offered to sign direct contracts for Russian oil and other materials.

In Washington, President Bush agreed to sign a Soviet-American trade agreement despite the unresolved status of Lithuania, but he warned Mr. Gorbachev that as long as the republic remained under embargo the deal faced strong opposition in Congress.